



DIVISIONS
ENERGY
GAS AND OIL
GEOLOGY AND MINERAL RESOURCES
MINED LAND RECLAMATION
MINERAL MINING
MINES
ADMINISTRATION

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA

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Department of Mines, Minerals & Energy Recognizes Paramont Coal for Exemplary Reclamation Work

Big Stone Gap, VA- Virginia's Department of Mines, Minerals & Energy (DMME) recognized companies and individuals for exceptional reclamation projects in the Commonwealth. This is the first year the department presented a corporate award for excellence which honors tremendous efforts in a vital environmental step in the coal industry.

Alpha Natural Resources and Paramont Coal Company Virginia, LLC received the 2014 Award for Corporate Excellence in Mined Land Reclamation. The award was given based upon numerous reclamation projects that were overseen and approved by DMME's Division of Mined Land Reclamation (DMLR).

DMME Deputy Director Butch Lambert applauded the company's efforts. "Making sure these companies leave the smallest foot print possible after mining is an important part of what we do. We are happy to acknowledge Alpha Natural Resources for preserving the beauty and the unique environment of the Appalachian Mountains through exemplary reclamation work."

Paramont Coal reclaimed both surface and underground coal mining sites. Some included a forestry reclamation approach where several types of native trees were planted where mining activities once took place. The company was also the first to include a natural stream restoration in a reclamation plan. Beyond that, Paramont Coal has helped to reclaim abandoned mine land features through re-mining and removing hazards left behind by old mining. Those efforts also leave more federal dollars available for DMME to eliminate many more of the abandoned mine land hazards that remain.

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DMLR Director Randy Casey says Paramount's reclamation is ideal. "We work with a lot of companies to make sure they're meeting environmental standards on a daily basis. It is truly scientific and detailed work and Paramount deserves a pat on the back for continuously meeting reclamation regulations."

Chris Stanley, Quality Control & Environmental Permitting Manager for TECO Coal, received the 2014 Award for Career Achievement in Mined Land Reclamation.

The awards were presented at DMME's Arbor Day Celebration on April 25th at Poplar Gap Park in Buchanan County, Virginia. Students planted over 700 trees on a reclaimed mine site.

DMME is responsible for ensuring the reclamation of land affected by surface and underground coal mining activity. Major functions include regulating surface effects of coal mining, reclaiming abandoned mine lands, issuing permits, performing inspections, assisting small operators, and responding to citizen concerns. Through permitting, mine inspections, operator assistance, and training activities, the department promotes an environmentally sound mining industry throughout Virginia's coalfield counties of Buchanan, Wise, Dickenson, Tazewell, Russell, Lee, and Scott.

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